

**James Madison to James Madison, Sr., July 31, 1781. Transcription: The Writings of James Madison, ed. Gaillard Hunt. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1900-1910.**

**TO JAMES MADISON. MAD. MSS.**

Philadelphia, August 1, 1781.<sup>1</sup>

1 The first two paragraphs relate to the purchases of family supplies and the sending of newspapers containing the latest news.

We have heard little of late from Europe, except that the Mediation proffered by Russia in the dispute between England & Holland has been referred by the former to the general pacification in which the mediation of the Emperor will be joined with that of Russia. As this step is not very respectful to Russia it can only proceed from a distrust of her friendship and the hopes entertained by Britain as to the issue of the Campaign, which as you will see in an intercepted

letter from Germaine to Clinton were extravagantly sanguine. We have no late intelligence from the W. Indies. Genl. Washington is going on with his preparations & operations agst. N. York. What the result will be can be decided by time alone. We hope they will at least withdraw some of the invaders from Virginia. The French fleet is still at Rhode Island. The British *it is reported* has lately left the Hook.

Augst. 2d.—Information has been recd. from N. York thro' a channel that is thought a good one, that orders are gone to Virginia for a large part of the troops under Cornwallis immediately to sail for that place. Should this be well founded the execution of the orders

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will announce it to you. Among other advantages attending an evacuation of Virga. it will not be the least that the communication with this place by the Bay will supply the State with many necessary articles wch. are now transported by land at so much expense & will enable you to pay for them easier by raising the price of your commodities. It gives me pain to hear that so many of the people have incautiously sold or rather given away their Tobo. to speculators when it was in no danger from the Enemy. The destruction of that article, which alarmed them, was an obvious cause of its future rise, and a reason for their retaining it till the alarm should be over. Goods of all kinds, particularly dry goods are rising here already. Salt in particular has risen within a few days from two dollars to a guinea per bushel.

I send you by this opportunity five English Grammars<sup>1</sup> for Mr. W. Maury agreeably to his request. This is the first that has offered although I have had them on hand for some months. The price of the whole is a guinea. The price of Dr. Collins medical book published here is also one guinea. If you would choose a copy on that condition I can send you one by a future opportunity. With my most affectionate regards to the family.

<sup>1</sup> In a postscript he corrects this statement, saying he sends six grammars and the price is 42 /. Pennsylvania equal to about 33 / 6 Virginia currency.